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ADDITIONAL FEE

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

An objection to the abstract was made. In response, Applicants have provided a new abstract. If the Examiner finds that the new abstract also is unacceptable, then Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out the exact defects in the new abstract.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have replaced the original claims by a new set of claims, which new set of claims Applicants submit is free of the Examiner's concerns.

For the Examiner's information, Applicants point out that the new claims correspond to

the original claims as follows:

<u>New Claim</u>	<u>Previous Claim</u>
20	17
21, 22	19
23-26	12-15, respectively
27	18
28, 29	12, 13, respectively
30	15
31	1

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

It should be clear that none of the new claims corresponds to previous claims 2 and 3.

Therefore, the Examiner's concerns as they related to these claims are now moot.

Regarding the Examiner's concerns as they related to previous claim 12, Applicants note that new claims 23 and 28 specify that the adhesive tape section is self-adhesive on both *faces* thereof. Accordingly, there is no confusion as to the meaning of the term "sides."

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the new claims are definite. An early

notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Luhmann et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,491,012 (hereinafter "Luhmann '012.") In response, Applicants point out that the two new independent claims, 20 and 27, correspond to previous claims 17 and 18, respectively, which were not subject to this rejection. Consequently, Applicants do not believe that this rejection applies to the new claims.

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Luhmann et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,626,932 (hereinafter "Luhmann '932.") In response, Applicants again point out that the two new independent claims, 20 and 27, correspond to previous claims 17 and 18, respectively, which were also not subject to this rejection. Consequently, Applicants also do not believe that this rejection applies to the new claims.

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Luhmann, U.S. Patent No. 5,725,923 (hereinafter "Luhmann '923.") In response, Applicants again point out that the two new independent claims, 20 and 27, correspond to previous claims 17 and 18, respectively, which were also not subject to this rejection. Consequently, Applicants also do not believe that this rejection applies to the new claims.

Claims 1-9 and 11-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Luhmann '923. In response, Applicants point out that a rejection predicated on obviousness requires a suggestion to do what an applicant has done. In the present case, the Examiner has not pointed to any suggestion in Luhmann '923 to make polygonal adhesive tape sections having the same number of grip tabs as sides, as presently claimed, or circular adhesive tape sections having a circular grip tab surrounding a central, circular adhesive region, as also presently claimed. In the absence of such suggestion, Applicants submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious by Luhmann '923. An early notice to that effect is also earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

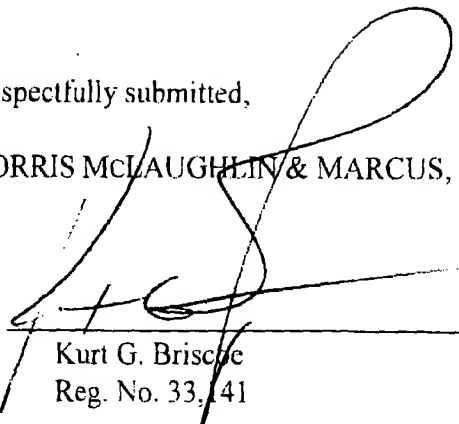
Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (914) 332-1700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By


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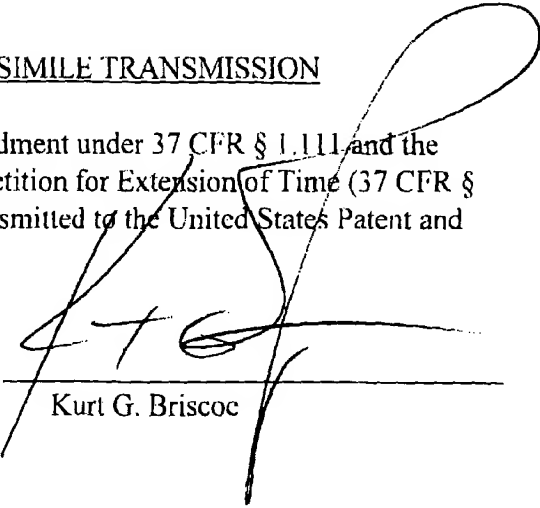
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111 and the accompanying Abstract of the Disclosure and Petition for Extension of Time (37 CFR § 1.136(a)) (12 pages total) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: May 30, 2000

By


Kurt G. Briscoe